

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on June 29, 2011 along with the Advisory Action mailed on November 3, 2011. This Amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). With this Amendment, claims 1 and 22 are amended, and all pending claims 1-11 and 13-20 and 22, 24 and 25 are presented for consideration and favorable action.

This Amendment is filed in connection with the Request for Continued Examination.

Applicant appreciates the opportunity to hold a Telephonic Interview in connection with the above matter. During that Interview, the Petrak reference was discussed along with language in the pending claims. During the course of that Interview, it became apparent that there was language in the claims which may have resulted in a lack of clarity.

With this Amendment, the claims have been made to clarify the elastic member as providing loading as well as support to the hollow shaft. This configuration is not shown in the cited references.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: Judson K. Champlin/

Judson K. Champlin, Reg. No. 34,797
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3244
Phone: (612) 334-3222
Fax: (612) 334-3312

JKC:ebw